A8912-1

SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 1986

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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of May, 1986)

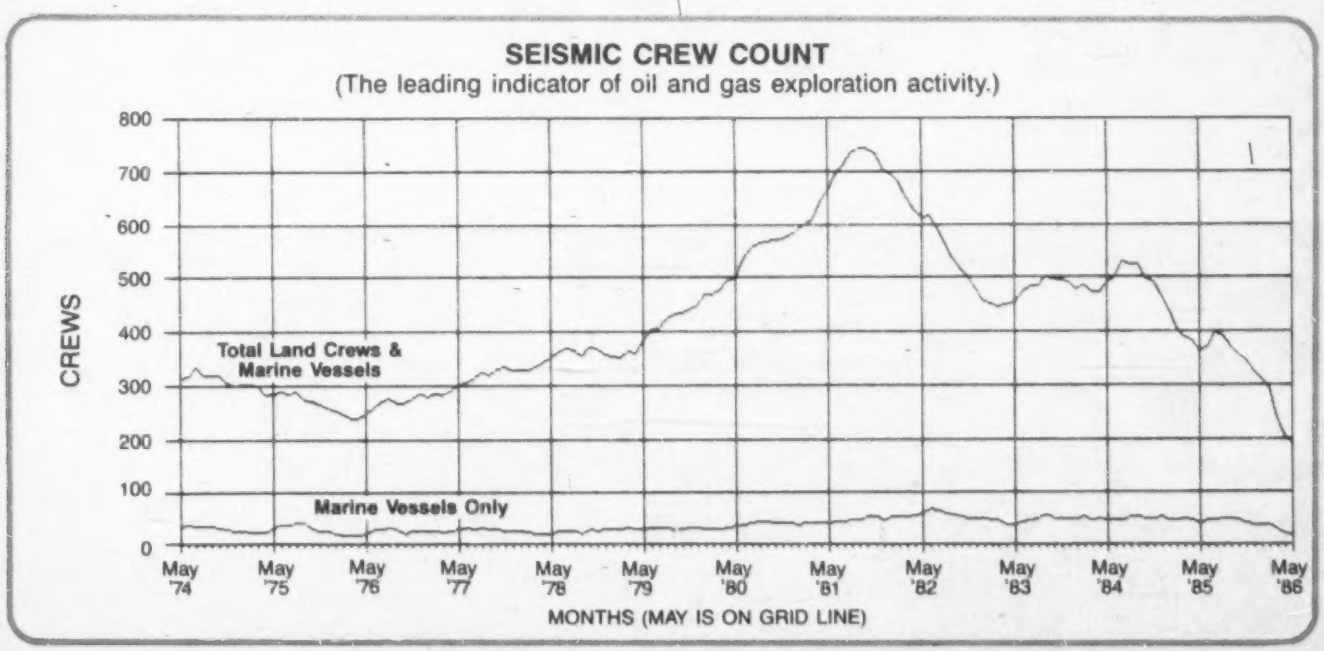
The number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters during May declined by fourteen crews from the April total of 205. The land crew total decreased by thirteen, and the marine crew total decreased by one crew for a net decrease of fourteen. May was the tenth consecutive month the total number of crews has decreased.

The May total (191) represents a decrease of 7% from last month, a 48% decrease from May, 1985, a 61% decrease from May, 1984, a 58% decrease from May, 1983, a 69% decrease from May, 1982, a 71% decrease from May, 1981, and a decrease of 62% from the same month in 1980.

During May, eight contractors were operating twelve of the 148 land crews and five of the fourteen vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	May '85	May '84	May '83	May '82	May '81	May '80
	191	205	364	490	455	612	661	502

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	May 1985	May 1984	May 1983	May 1982	May 1981	May 1980	This Mo.	Last Mo.	May 1985	May 1984	May 1983	May 1982	May 1981	May 1980
51 Contr's:	148	159	293	406	375	508	578	429	14	15	35	38	33	53	34	28
8 Oil Co's:	24	26	30	38	41	43	41	39	5	5	5	8	6	8	7	6
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	172	185	323	444	416	551	619	468	19	20	41	46	39	61	42	34



*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

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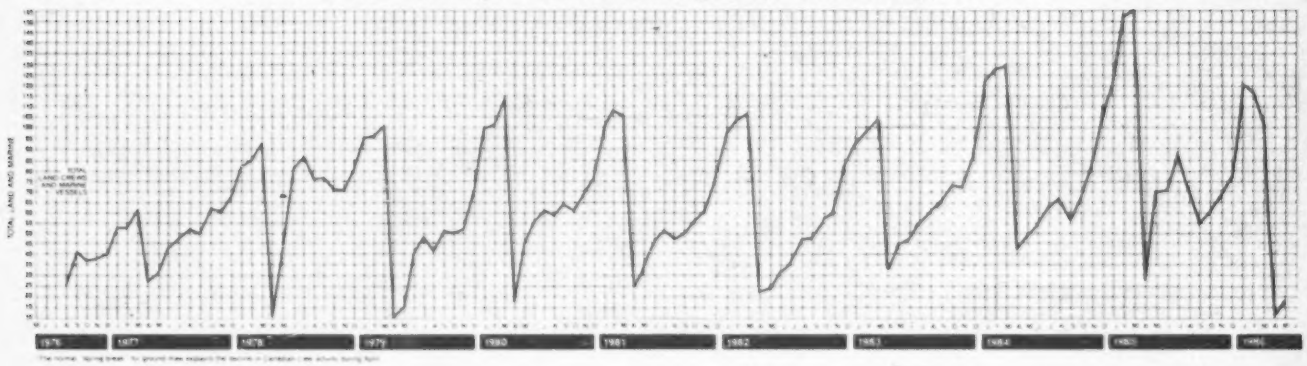
CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

May, 1986 (April figures in parentheses)

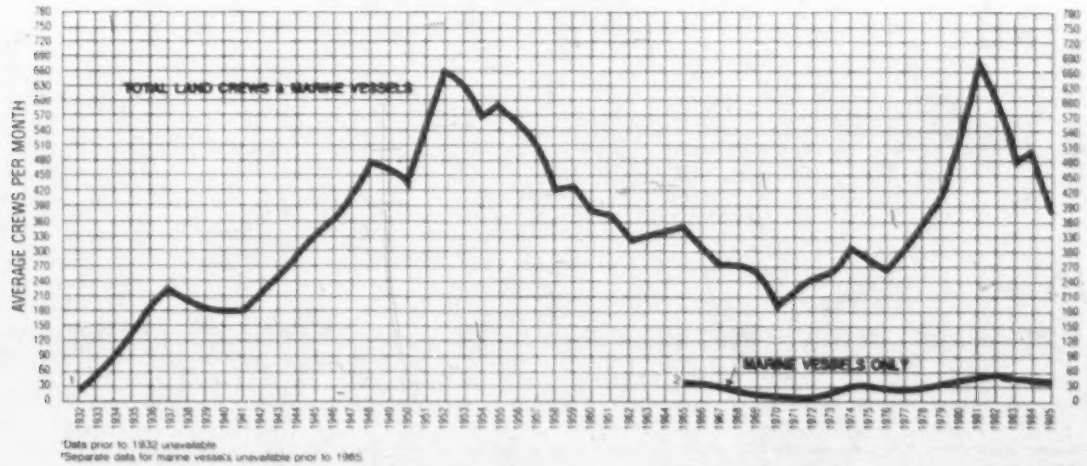
	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
13 Contractors:	16 (11)	0 (0)
1 Oil Company:	2 (0)	0 (0)
Totals:	18 (11)	0 (0)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



[1]Data prior to 1932 unavailable
[2]Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1985